

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given to this application. Applicants request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In view of the above amendments, Claims 1-2, 4, 6-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 9 and 10 are independent claims. Claim 3 has been canceled.

In paragraph 8, the Examiner states that claims 3, 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable in independent form. Applicants are grateful for this indication of allowable subject matter. In the interest of expediting allowance of this application, although Applicants do not concur with the rejections of the claims under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103, Applicants have elected to incorporate the elements of claim 3 (indicated as containing allowable subject matter) into independent claims 1 and 8, and have canceled claim 3 without prejudice. Additionally, Applicants have elected to convert claims 9 and 10 to independent form.

In view of the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims now contain allowable subject matter (either directly or by depending from claims including subject matter having been indicated as being allowable) and that, therefore, the rejections of the claims under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103 are moot.

Applicants may not have presented all possible arguments or have refuted the characterizations of either the claims or the prior art as found in the Office Action. However, the lack of such arguments or refutations is not intended to act as a waiver of such arguments or as concurrence with such characterizations.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the above amendments and remarks address all of the grounds for rejection and place this application in condition for allowance. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request prompt and favorable consideration of this response and reconsideration of this application.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: September 25, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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CB-637419